

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A device for protecting data, comprising:

a housing;

an interface supported by said housing for connection to a computing device;

a data storage within said housing;

an encryptor within said housing located in-line between said interface and said data storage;

a control system within said housing; and

a memory within said housing that includes program data executable on said computing device to perform user authentication;

wherein said control system is configured to expose said memory to said interface to facilitate user authentication and at least until user authentication and to expose said encryptor to said interface only upon successful user authentication, and

said encryptor is operable to encrypt on the fly data received from said interface and to forward said data once encrypted to said data storage and to decrypt on the fly data received from said data storage and to forward said data once decrypted to said interface.

2. (original): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control system is configured to reboot said computing device after successful user authentication and before exposing said encryptor to said interface.

3. (original): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said memory comprises a portion of a memory storage system provided with one or more bootable programs.

4. (currently amended): A device for protecting data, comprising:

a housing;

a first interface supported by said housing for connection to a computing device,

a second interface supported by said housing for connection to a data storage;

an encryptor disposed within said housing and located in-line between said first interface and said second interface;

a control system disposed within said housing; and

a memory disposed within said housing that includes program data executable on said computing device to perform user authentication;

wherein said control system is configured to expose said memory to said first interface to facilitate user authentication and at least until user authentication and to expose said encryptor to said first interface only upon successful user authentication, and said encryptor is operable to encrypt on the fly data received from said first interface and to forward said data once encrypted

to said second interface and to decrypt on the fly data received from said second interface and to forward said data once decrypted to said first interface.

5. (original): A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said control system is configured to reboot said computing device after successful user authentication and before exposing said encryptor to said first interface.

6. (currently amended): A method of protecting data, comprising:
locating within a common housing an encryptor in-line between a data storage and a first interface to a computing device;
exposing a memory to said first interface to facilitate user authentication and at least until user authentication;
exposing said encryptor to said first interface only upon successful user authentication;
encrypting on the fly data received from said first interface and forwarding said data once encrypted to a second interface; and
decrypting on the fly data received from said second interface and forwarding said data once decrypted to said first interface.

7. (original) A device as claimed in either claim 1 or 4, wherein said memory includes a bootable program configured to automatically load into said computing device when said device is connected to said computing device and said computing device is powered up.

8. (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein encryption on the fly is performed in real-time when data is written or read through the interface.

9. (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein decryption on the fly is performed in real-time when data is written or read through the interface.

10. (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is integrated with the computing device through the first interface.

11. (new): A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the data storage is external to the housing.